United Nations S/2008/387

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2008
English
Original: French

Letter dated 11 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, addressed to you, from His Excellency Mr. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti, concerning the situation of Djibouti and Eritrea.

(*Signed*) Roble **Olhaye**

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Annex to the Letter dated 11 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Djibouti, 11 June 2008

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you of recent developments in the situation on the border between Djibouti and Eritrea at Ras Doumeira, on the northern frontier of the Republic of Djibouti.

In the morning of Tuesday, 10 June 2008, Eritrean armed forces launched unprovoked attacks with light and heavy weapons against the positions of the army of Djibouti, thereby demonstrating the Eritrean Government's bellicose nature and its intention to destabilize the region.

The Government of the Republic of Djibouti notes that this act of aggression has taken place at a time when the talks between the various Somali parties participating in the peace negotiations in Djibouti have resulted in the conclusion of a peace agreement.

Consequently, in view of the gravity of the situation on the border, the Government of the Republic of Djibouti requests the convening of an emergency meeting of the Security Council to put an end to the aggression by the Eritrean armed forces.

(*Signed*) Mahmoud Ali **Youssouf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

United Nations A/62/860–S/2008/388

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 June 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 12
Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 7 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, issued on 5 June 2008, regarding the decree of the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 4 June 2008 concerning Russian-Ukrainian relations (see annex).

I kindly ask you to circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 12, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

08-37983 (E) 170608

Annex to the identical letters dated 7 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in connection with the resolution on the state of Russian-Ukrainian relations adopted by the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 4 June 2008.

In connection with approval of the resolution on the state of Russian-Ukrainian relations by the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 4 June 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine states that Ukraine develops good-neighbourly relations with the Russian Federation, consistently supports equitable partnership development between the two countries and constructive settlement of all disputable problems by means of dialogue and makes efforts to achieve positive results.

Contrary to such approach, the said resolution of the State Duma actually contains categorical demands on Ukraine and is nothing else than an attempt of unconcealed pressure towards our State and is inadmissible for the Ukrainian party.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine proceeds from the fact that the Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation remains a cornerstone of mutually beneficial relations between the two countries. It equally corresponds to the interests of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Therefore, Ukraine will not initiate its denunciation.

The proposals of the State Duma of the Russian Federation to withdraw from the Agreement are a short-sighted and irresponsible step. It is obvious that it will never be supported by the international community because it would cause serious damage to security and stability on the continent and the entire complex of Ukrainian-Russian relations.

United Nations A/62/882–S/2008/389

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 June 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 22
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 10 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 15 April 2008, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 2 April to 29 May 2008, as follows:

On 2 April 2008, five CN-235 and three Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations six times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 3 April 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 5 April 2008, two C-160 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 7 April 2008, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft twice violated international air traffic regulations and twice the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 8 April 2008, one Cougar and two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 9 April 2008, two C-650, two B-200, two Cougar and one Black Hawk Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus seven times.

On 10 April 2008, six Cougar and four CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus seven times.

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On 11 and 13 April 2008, four CN-235, two C-650, one Cougar and one Black Hawk Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations eight times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus eight times.

On 14 April 2008, two C-130, two CN-235 and one GLF-4 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 15 April 2008, one Cougar, two CN-235 and two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 16 April 2008, two Cougar, two C-160 and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 17 April 2008, four CN-235, one C-650 and one GLF-4 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 18 April 2008, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 19 April 2008, five F-16 and four KC-135 Turkish military aircraft twice violated international air traffic regulations and once the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 22 April 2008, one CN-235, two C-160 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 24 April 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 25 April 2008, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft twice violated international air traffic regulations and twice the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 27 April 2008, one Cougar and two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 28 April 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 29 April 2008, two CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 30 April 2008, five F-16, two KC-135, two B-200 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 1 and 2 May 2008, two F-16 and five Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 6 May 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 7 May 2008, three CN-235, two C-130, two F-16 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 8 May 2008, two Cougar and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On the same day, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft twice violated international air traffic regulations and twice the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 12 May 2008, three Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 13 May 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 14 May 2008, two F-16, two B-200 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 16 and 17 May 2008, four CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 20 May 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 21 May 2008, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations, and two Cougar and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 24 May 2008, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft twice violated international air traffic regulations and twice the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 25 May 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 27 May 2008, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft twice violated international air traffic regulations and twice the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 28 May 2008, one Cougar and two B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 29 May 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the aforementioned violations and call for their immediate cessation.

Turkey's policy of persistently breaching international law and defying international rules and regulations gravely jeopardize the safety of international civil aviation, as well as the stability of the region. Moreover, Turkey's systematic attempts to undermine the sovereignty and unity of the Republic of Cyprus, by promoting an illegal secessionist entity, arrogating to itself, inter alia, the right to control part of Cyprus's airspace, further complicate the efforts to build trust and confidence between the two communities. Such actions are yet further evidence of Turkey's sole objective, namely, to consolidate the existing division of the island and sustain its military presence in Cyprus in perpetuity.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the present letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**

United Nations S/2008/390

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 June 2008

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2008

I. Introduction

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) during the past six months pursuant to the mandate contained in Security Council resolution 350 (1974) and extended in subsequent resolutions, most recently resolution 1788 (2007) of 14 December 2007.

II. Situation in the area and activities of the Force

2. During the period under review the ceasefire in the Israel-Syria sector was maintained and the UNDOF area of operation remained generally quiet. UNDOF supervised the area of separation by means of fixed positions and patrols to ensure that the military forces of either party were excluded from it. The Force also carried out fortnightly inspections of equipment and force levels in the areas of limitation. Liaison officers from the party concerned accompanied the inspection teams. As in the past, both sides denied inspection teams access to some of their positions and imposed restrictions on the Force's freedom of movement. During the period under review, UNDOF adapted its operational activities to the continuing Israel Defense Forces (IDF) training activities in the area of limitation on the Alpha side and Syrian civilian settlement growth in proximity to the ceasefire line in the southern part of the area of separation. During the same period, both sides continued to construct new, and renovate existing defensive positions in the respective areas of limitation. Israeli national Customs officials continue to operate periodically at the IDF post at the UNDOF crossing gate between the Israeli-occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Both parties have limited the movement of UNDOF supplies through the Alpha and Bravo gates.

3. The Force continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with the passage of persons through the area of separation. During the past six months, UNDOF assisted in the crossing of 19 students and 7 civilians. UNDOF also provided medical treatment to 204 civilians.

4. In the area of operation, especially in the area of separation, mines continued to pose a threat to UNDOF personnel and local inhabitants. Owing to the long-term

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presence of the mines and the deterioration of their detonation systems, this threat has increased. UNDOF continued to carry out operational mine clearance. It remained available to support the United Nations Children's Fund in activities to promote mine awareness among the civilian population.

5. The Force Commander and his staff maintained close contact with the military authorities of Israel and of the Syrian Arab Republic. Both sides generally cooperated with the Force in the execution of its tasks.

6. As at 19 May 2008, UNDOF comprised 1,047 troops, from Austria (381), Canada (2), Croatia (2), India (189), Japan (30), Poland (348) and Slovakia (95). A total of 15 personnel were employed by Japan as a national support element. In addition, 75 military observers from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assisted the Force in carrying out its tasks.

III. Financial aspects

7. By its resolution 61/287, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $39.6 million for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. The proposed budget for UNDOF for the financial period commencing on 1 July 2008 amounts to $45.7 million, equivalent to $3.8 million per month, and is currently under consideration by the General Assembly. Should the Council decide to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 30 June 2008, as recommended in paragraph 12 below, the cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the monthly amounts to be approved by the General Assembly.

8. As at 30 April 2008, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNDOF special account for the period from the inception of the Force to that date amounted to $14.9 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $2.3 billion. As at 30 April 2008, amounts owed to troop contributors for UNDOF totalled $2.3 million. Reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the period up to 29 February 2008 and 31 December 2007, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IV. Implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973)

9. The Security Council, when deciding in its resolution 1788 (2007) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, until 30 June 2008, also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of the period, a report on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, in particular the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement resolution 338 (1973), was addressed in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 61/26 and 61/27 (A/62/327).

V. Observations

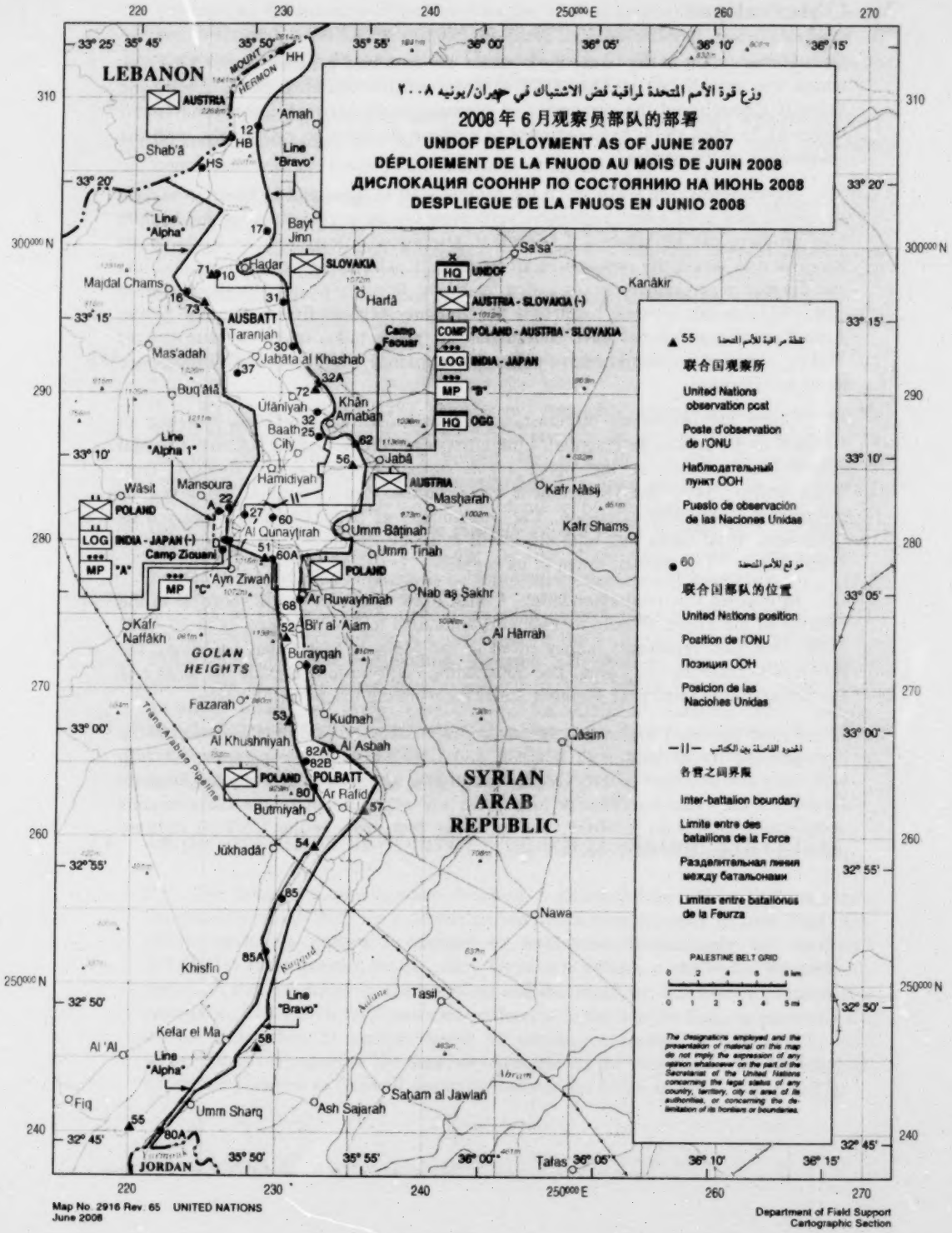
10. The situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained generally quiet. UNDOF, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the ceasefire called for by the Security Council and the agreement on disengagement between Syrian and Israeli forces of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its function effectively, with the cooperation of the parties.

11. Nevertheless, the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects, with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973). In this context, I welcome the announcement confirming that the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel have started indirect peace talks, under the auspices of Turkey, aimed at a comprehensive peace in accordance with the Madrid Conference terms of reference.

12. Under the prevailing circumstances, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 31 December 2008. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement. It is hoped that both sides will make efforts to ease the limitations on Force mobility and the movement of its supplies.

13. In making this recommendation, I must draw attention to the shortfall in the funding of the Force. Unpaid assessments amounted to $14.9 million as at 30 April 2008. That sum represents money owed to the Member States that contribute the troops who make up the Force. The outstanding contributions impede the ability of the Secretariat to reimburse Member States contributing troops to the Force.

14. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major General Wolfgang Jilke and to the men and women serving with UNDOF and UNTSO. They have performed with efficiency and devotion to duty the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF, and to those that provide the UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force.


وزع قوة الأمم المتحدة لمراقبة فض الاشتباك في حوران/يونيه ٢٠٠٨
2008 年 6 月观察员部队的部署
UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF JUNE 2007
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FNUOD AU MOIS DE JUIN 2008
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ СООННР ПО СОСТОЯНИЮ НА ИЮНЬ 2008
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FNUOS EN JUNIO 2008
LEBANON
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
JORDAN
GOLAN HEIGHTS
AUSTRIA
SLOVAKIA
POLAND
POLBATT
AUSBATT
HQ UNDOF
AUSTRIA - SLOVAKIA (-)
COMP POLAND - AUSTRIA - SLOVAKIA
LOG INDIA - JAPAN
MP "B"
HQ OGG
LOG INDIA - JAPAN (-)
Camp Zlousni
MP "A"
MP "C"
Camp Faouar
Line "Alpha"
Line "Alpha 1"
Line "Bravo"
United Nations observation post
Poste d'observation de l'ONU
Наблюдательный пункт ООН
Puesto de observación de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations position
Position de l'ONU
Позиция ООН
Posicion de las Naciones Unidas
Inter-battalion boundary
Limite entre des bataillons de la Force
Разделительная линия между батальонами
Limites entre batallones de la Feurza
PALESTINE BELT GRID
The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Map No. 2916 Rev. 65 UNITED NATIONS
June 2008
Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2008/391

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 June 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 13 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Security Council heard, at its meeting on Iraq today, certain unfounded allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the representative of the United States. Since the format of the said meeting did not allow my delegation to make a statement at the Council meeting, I should therefore be grateful if you could bring to the attention of the members of the Council the position of my delegation on the said unfounded allegations, as contained in the annex to this letter, and circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-38586 (E) 160608

Annex to the letter dated 13 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Response by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the allegations made against Iran by the representative of the United States at the Security Council meeting on Iraq on 13 June 2008

I wish to inform you and the other members of the Security Council that my delegation rejects the groundless allegations made against Iran by the United States representative at today's meeting of the Council.

Iran has been unambiguous in its condemnation of all acts of violence and terrorism in Iraq. As we have stated in the past, our country has itself been subject to terrorism and suffered from terrorist acts committed in and originating from Iraq, due to the tacit and explicit support extended by the United States Government to certain terrorist groups stationed and operating in Iraq.

Iran's best interest lies in a democratic, secure, stable and prosperous Iraq at peace with itself and with its neighbours. Whereas Iran has been unwavering in its support for the Iraqi Government to bring about stability, security and development to the country, and has proved, time and again, its good intention to help the Iraqi people and the Government to overcome their immense difficulties, the United States Government insists on making unwarranted, unfounded and indeed tired allegations, thus obfuscating the real sources of the problems in Iraq. To date no single piece of evidence has been presented to substantiate these allegations. To the contrary, several high-ranking Iraqi officials are on record, stressing Iran's constructive role in the country and rejecting the said allegations.

In our view, these allegations made by United States officials against Iran are aimed at distracting the international community's attention from the real causes of the problems in Iraq, that is the continuation of the presence of foreign forces in the country and certain wrong policies and practices on their part.

We enjoy deep and brotherly relations with Iraq, relations that have been strengthened even further by the recent high-level visits of officials of the two countries, including the recent visit to Iran paid by Prime Minister Nuri Kamel al-Maliki and also our President's visit to Iraq in March 2008.

Undoubtedly, as the people of Iraq continue on their journey towards peace, security and development, they will always find us behind them offering our unreserved support and sincere cooperation.

United Nations S/2008/392

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 June 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 22 May 2008 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the following: (a) the Doha Agreement regarding the outcome of the Lebanese national reconciliation conference; and (b) the outcome and resolutions issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at its extraordinary session held at the ministerial level on 11 May 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 22 May 2008 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Doha Agreement on the outcome of the meeting of the Lebanese National Dialogue

Under the generous sponsorship of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar;

In continuation of the efforts of the Arab Ministerial Committee on the Lebanese crisis under the leadership of His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar and of Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and Their Excellencies the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Djibouti, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Yemen;

On the basis of the Arab Initiative on containing the Lebanese crisis;

And in implementation of the agreement concluded in Beirut among the Lebanese parties under the aegis of the Arab Ministerial Committee on 15 May 2008 (annexed), which is an integral part of the present declaration;

A meeting of the Lebanese National Dialogue was held in Doha from 16 to 21 May 2008, with the participation of the Lebanese political leaders who are members of the Lebanese National Dialogue, who affirmed their desire to rescue Lebanon from the current political crisis with its dire implications for communal existence and civil peace among Lebanese, and their commitment to the principles of the Lebanese Constitution and the Taif Accords. As a result of the proceedings of the meeting and of bilateral and group consultations conducted with the participants by the Chairman and members of the Arab Ministerial Committee,

Agreement was reached on the following:

I. The parties agreed that the Speaker of Parliament will call on the Lebanese Parliament to convene in accordance with established rules within 24 hours to elect the consensus candidate General Michel Sleiman as President of the Republic, this being the best way from a constitutional point of view to elect the President under these extraordinary circumstances.

II. A Government of national unity will be formed with 30 ministers to be allocated as follows: 16 to the majority, 11 to the opposition, and three to the President. All parties pledge by virtue of this Agreement not to resign or obstruct the work of the Government.

III. In accordance with the electoral law of 1960, the district (*qada'*) will be adopted as the electoral constituency in Lebanon, and the two districts of Marj 'Uyun-Hasbayya will remain a single electoral constituency, as will Baalbek-Hirmil and Western Bekaa-Rashayya.

Beirut will be divided as follows:

First Constituency:	al-Ashrafiyya — al-Rumayl — al-Sayfi;
Second Constituency:	al-Bashurah — al-Mudawwar — al-Marfa';
Third Constituency:	Mina' al-Husn — 'Ayn al-Muraysah — al-Mazra'ah — al-Musaytibah — Ra's Beirut — Zuqaq al-Balat.

It was agreed to refer the reform clauses contained in the draft law submitted to Parliament, drafted by the National Electoral Law Drafting Commission under the chairmanship of Minister Fuad Butros, for debate and consideration in accordance with established procedures.

IV. The above-referenced agreement concluded in Beirut will be implemented, and in particular paragraphs 4 and 5 thereof, which state that:

"4. The parties pledge to refrain from a return to the use of weapons or violence for the purpose of achieving political gain.

5. Dialogue will be launched to strengthen the authority of the Lebanese State over all its territory, and its relations with the various organizations in the Lebanese arena to ensure the security of the State and its citizens ..."

Accordingly, dialogue was launched in Doha on strengthening the authority of the State in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Beirut agreement, and agreement was reached on the following:

- Resort to the use of weapons or violence to resolve differences of any kind under any circumstances is prohibited, in order to ensure that there is no violation of the national contract of partnership based on the determination of the Lebanese to coexist within a democratic system. Security and military authority over Lebanese nationals and residents is reserved to the State, to guarantee continued communal existence and civil peace for all Lebanese. The parties pledge to this.
- The law is to be applied and the sovereignty of the State honoured in all Lebanese regions. There will be no regions in which fugitives from justice may take refuge, out of respect for the rule of law, and anyone who commits crimes or violations will be brought before the Lebanese justice system.

This dialogue will be resumed under the leadership of the President of the Republic immediately upon his election and a national unity Government will be formed, with the participation of the League of Arab States, with a view to strengthening confidence among Lebanese.

V. The Lebanese political leaders reaffirm their commitment to stop using the language of treason and political and sectarian incitement immediately.

The Arab Ministerial Committee undertakes to deposit this Agreement with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States upon its signature.

This Agreement was signed in the city of Doha on 21 May 2008 by the Lebanese political leaders who took part in the meeting.

(*Signed*)

His Excellency Speaker Nabih **Berri**

His Excellency Prime Minister Fouad **Siniora**

Shaykh Amin **Gemayel**

General Michel **Aoun**

Member of Parliament Michel **Murr**

Shaykh Saad **Hariri**

Mr. Walid **Jumblat**

Member of Parliament Boutros **Harb**

Member of Parliament Ilyas **Sakkaf**

Member of Parliament Ghassan **Tueni**

Member of Parliament Muhammad **al-Safadi**

Member of Parliament Muhammad **Raad**

Member of Parliament Agop **Baghradounian**

Member of Parliament Samir **Ja`ja`**

Witnessed by:

His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr **Al-Thani**
Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar
Chairman of the Arab Ministerial Committee

Amre **Moussa**
Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

Outcome of the extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States held at the ministerial level

Cairo, 11 May 2008

- Urgent call for an immediate cessation of the acts of violence and clashes in Lebanon.....Call 6
- Containment of the Lebanese crisis.....6915
- The terrorist attacks on the capital of the Sudan.....6916
- The tense situation on the borders between Djibouti and Eritrea in the Djiboutian region of Ras Doumeira.....6917

Urgent call for an immediate cessation of the acts of violence and clashes in Lebanon

The Council of the League of Arab States, at its extraordinary session of 11 May 2008 held at the ministerial level, in the light of the news concerning the escalating violence and clashes in the Mount Lebanon region and other areas, issues an urgent call for the immediate cessation of all forms of armed aggression, the withdrawal of the armed parties from the areas of tension and the facilitation of the army's responsibility for maintaining security and preventing bloodshed.

Call No. 6/extraordinary session of 11 May 2008

Containment of the Lebanese crisis

The Council of the League of Arab States, at its extraordinary session of 11 May 2008 held at the ministerial level,

Aware of the dangers of the current situation in Lebanon, the repercussions thereof on future security and stability in that country and the consequences for the situation in the whole region,

On the basis of the Arab responsibility towards Lebanon, and as part of the continuing Arab efforts to assist that country in overcoming the crisis,

In view of the extremely hazardous developments, which are escalating the political and security situations in Lebanon to a point where they could be difficult to contain,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions concerning the situation in Lebanon,

Decides

1. *To underline* the total rejection by the Arab countries of the situation created by the developments of the past few days in Lebanon and, in particular, the use of force and violence, which have threatened the internal peace of the country;

2. *To stress* that the Council rejects the use of armed violence to achieve political aims by means which are neither legitimate nor constitutional, and affirms the need for all armed elements to withdraw from the streets of Lebanon and for the current Lebanese political crisis to be settled in a manner that will maintain an effective role for every sect within the Lebanese entity;

3. *To welcome* the declaration made by the army leadership that it would be guided by the two resolutions concerning the airport security apparatus and the network of cable communications and include those issues in their remit; to welcome also the delegation by the Government to the army of responsibility for protecting public security, calming the situation and ensuring the functioning of public and private institutions; to commend the role played by the army and stress the need to preserve its unity, support its position and built its capacities to maintain the security of the country;

4. *To underline* the need to re-open and secure forthwith the road to Beirut International Airport, in order to permit the resumption of air traffic, and all other roads, and to re-open Beirut Port, with a view to ensuring the free movement of Lebanese and other travellers to and from the country;

5. *To uphold* all elements of the Arab Initiative as the basis for any resolution of the situation;

6. *To call upon* the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister and the leaders of the pro-Government alliance and the opposition to attend a special meeting of the ministerial committee referred to in the next paragraph in order to discuss the situation, agree on the urgent implementation of the Arab Initiative and contain the perilous state of affairs that could arise should current developments continue;

7. *To form* a ministerial committee chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and the Secretary-General, with members comprising

the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Djibouti, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Yemen;

8. *To request* that ministerial committee to travel to Beirut forthwith;

9. *To remain* in permanent session with a view to following developments.

Resolution 6915, extraordinary session of 11 May 2008

The terrorist attacks on the capital of the Sudan

The Council of the League of Arab States, at its extraordinary session of 11 May 2008 held at the ministerial level,

Having heard the account presented by the head of the delegation of the Sudan of the devastating terrorist attack that was launched from Chadian territory against Khartoum, the capital of the Sudan, by the armed rebel group Justice and Equality Movement, with a view to terrorising the population and undermining the stability of the Sudan,

Reaffirming all its earlier resolutions concerning the upholding of peace, unity and development in the Sudan, the most recent of which was adopted at the Arab Summit in Damascus in 2008 and decided, inter alia, to:

– Support attempts to reach a political settlement of the Darfur problem;

– Call upon the rebel groups that have not signed the Darfur Peace Agreement to renounce military escalation;

– Request the international community to exert efforts to prevent military resistance to the Agreement;

– Urge the Security Council to impose sanctions on parties that obstruct the political process in Darfur,

Affirming respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Sudan, and requesting all States to put that undertaking into practice and support attempts to achieve peace and national harmony,

Affirming also the need to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement which was signed on 5 May 2006 in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, by the Government of National Unity and the Sudan Liberation Movement,

Decides

1. *To condemn* the terrorist operation that was launched by the rebel group Justice and Equality Movement, led by Khalil Ibrahim, with a view to undermining the stability of the Sudan, and request the Movement to renounce all forms of violence;

2. *To affirm* the support of the League of Arab States for the efforts exerted by the Government of National Unity with a view to achieving peace, security and stability in all parts of the Sudan, and the solidarity of the League with that country in facing all attacks against its security, stability and peace;

3. *To affirm also* the need for complete commitment to the principle of good-neighbourliness, and urge all States that are supporting armed rebel groups to desist from providing such support or allowing them to use their territory as a base from which to threaten the unity, security, stability and territorial integrity of the Sudan;

4. *To request* the Secretary-General to communicate immediately with the Head of the African Union legation with a view to joint Afro-Arab action that will assist in ensuring commitment to the principle of good-neighbourliness and spreading stability throughout the region;

5. *To request also* the armed rebel groups that have not signed the Darfur Peace Agreement to renounce the choice of military escalation and make a commitment to dialogue as the sole means of achieving peace in Darfur; and to request the international community to exert efforts to prevent resistance to the Agreement by military means or by instigating tribal fanaticism within displaced persons and refugee camps;

6. *To call upon* the Security Council to take the measures necessary to impose appropriate sanctions on any armed movement that aims to threaten peace and stability in the Sudan and to obstruct the political process in Darfur;

7. *To call upon* the international community to accelerate completion of what has been agreed upon and to prepare a climate conducive to the holding of an inter-Darfuri dialogue, as well as to intensify development and reconstruction efforts in Darfur, pursuant to the Peace Agreement;

8. *To call upon* the international community also to honour its commitment to uphold and salvage the Darfur Peace Agreement and bring pressure to bear upon all the armed rebel groups to renew the peace process as soon as possible, and to desist from any action that might threaten the unity, security, stability and territorial integrity of the Sudan;

9. *To request* the Secretary-General to follow up the issue and to keep the Council of the League in session and ready to follow up developments in the situation.

Resolution 6916, extraordinary session of 11 May 2008

The tense situation on the borders between Djibouti and Eritrea in the Djiboutian region of Ras Doumeira

The Council of the League of Arab States, at its extraordinary session of 11 May 2008 held at the ministerial level,

Having heard the account presented by the head of the delegation of Djibouti of the tense situation on the borders between Djibouti and Eritrea in the Djiboutian region of Ras Doumeira and the efforts exerted by Djibouti to use peaceful means to reduce the tension between those two countries,

Having heard also the account presented by the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar of the commendable endeavours exerted by his country to resolve the crisis between those two neighbouring countries,

Having heard in addition the account presented by the Secretary-General of the outcome of the meeting of the Arab Peace and Security Council that was held at delegate level on 4 May 2008, the efforts that are being exerted by the League in that regard and the dispatch on 8 May 2008 of a General Secretariat mission to the border region in order to establish the nature of the situation,

Decides

1. *To affirm* the need for the two neighbouring countries to respect the principle of good-neighbourliness, the post-independence borders, national unity and territorial integrity;

2. *To call upon* the two neighbouring countries to exert self-control, use peaceful means to resolve the problem and avoid taking any measures that could escalate the situation;

3. *To support* the laudable efforts being exerted by Qatar to address the tension between the two countries by peaceful means;

4. *To uphold* the measures that have been taken by the Arab Peace and Security Council and request Eritrea to cooperate in the mission that is being carried out in that regard by the League of Arab States delegation;

5. *To request* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the two parties and to cooperate and coordinate with Qatar, the Head of the African Union legation and the Arab League and African Union Peace and Security Councils with a view to ensuring joint Afro-Arab action in dealing with the crisis and achieving stability in the region;

6. *To request* the Secretary-General also to submit a report on the issue to the Council of the League in the light of the relevant efforts that have been exerted.

Resolution 6917, extraordinary session of 11 May 2008

United Nations S/2008/393

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 June 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 16 June 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the proposals of China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, with the support of the High Representative of the European Union, which the High Representative passed to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 14 June 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Karen **Pierce**
Chargé d'affaires

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Annex to the letter dated 16 June 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 12 June 2008 addressed to Manouchehr Mottaki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. Its people are justifiably proud of their history, culture and heritage. It sits at a geographical crossroads. It has vast natural resources and great economic potential, which its people should be reaping to the full.

But in recent years, Iran's relationship with the international community has been overshadowed by growing tension and mistrust, since there remains a lack of confidence in Iran's nuclear programme. We have supported the IAEA's efforts to address this with Iran but successive IAEA reports have concluded that it is not able to provide credible assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran. Two years ago, the IAEA referred the matter to the United Nations Security Council, which has now passed four resolutions calling on Iran to comply with its obligations.

We, the Foreign Ministers of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, joined in this endeavour by the European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, are convinced that it is possible to change the present state of affairs. We hope that Iran's leaders share the same ambition.

In June 2006, we set out an ambitious proposal for a broad-based negotiation. We offered to work with Iran on a modern nuclear energy programme, with a guaranteed fuel supply. We were also prepared to discuss political and economic issues, as well as issues regarding regional security. These proposals were carefully considered and designed to address Iran's essential interests and those of the international community.

Today, bearing in mind the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1803 (2008), we restate our offer to address constructively these important concerns and interests.

Our proposals are attached to the present letter. Iran is, of course, free to suggest its own proposals. Formal negotiations can start as soon as Iran's enrichment-related and reprocessing activities are suspended. We want to be clear that we recognize Iran's rights under the international treaties to which it is a signatory. We fully understand the importance of a guaranteed fuel supply for a civil nuclear programme. We have supported the Bushehr facility. But with rights come responsibilities, in particular to restore the confidence of the international community in Iran's programme. We are ready to work with Iran in order to find a way to address Iran's needs and the international community's concerns, and reiterate that once the confidence of the international community in the exclusively peaceful nature of your nuclear programme is restored, it will be treated in the same manner as that of any non-nuclear-weapon State party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We ask you to consider the present letter and our proposals carefully and hope for an early response. The proposals we have made offer substantial opportunities for political, security and economic benefits to Iran and the region. There is a sovereign choice for Iran to make. We hope that you will respond positively; this will increase stability and enhance prosperity for all our people.

(*Signed*) **Yang** Jiechi
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

(*Signed*) Bernard **Kouchner**
Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the French Republic

(*Signed*) Frank-Walter **Steinmeier**
Deputy Federal Chancellor and Federal Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany

(*Signed*) Sergey Viktorovich **Lavrov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) David **Miliband**
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(*Signed*) Condoleezza **Rice**
Secretary of State of the United States of America

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**
High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security
Policy/Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

Enclosure

Possible areas of cooperation with Iran

In order to seek a comprehensive, long-term and proper solution of the Iranian nuclear issue consistent with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and building further upon the proposal presented to Iran in June 2006, which remains on the table, the elements below are proposed as topics for negotiations between China, France, Germany, Iran, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, joined by the High Representative of the European Union, as long as Iran verifiably suspends its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, pursuant to paragraph 15 and paragraph 19 (a) of United Nations Security Council resolution 1803 (2008). In the perspective of such negotiations, we also expect Iran to heed the requirements of the United Nations Security Council and the IAEA. For their part, China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union High Representative state their readiness:

- To recognize Iran's right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with its NPT obligations;
- To treat Iran's nuclear programme in the same manner as that of any non-nuclear-weapon State party to the NPT once international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme is restored.

Nuclear energy

- Reaffirmation of Iran's right to nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes in conformity with its obligations under the NPT.
- Provision of technological and financial assistance necessary for Iran's peaceful use of nuclear energy, support for the resumption of technical cooperation projects in Iran by the IAEA.
- Support for construction of LWR based on state-of-the-art technology.
- Support for R&D in nuclear energy as international confidence is gradually restored.
- Provision of legally binding nuclear fuel supply guarantees.
- Cooperation with regard to management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

Political

- Improving the six countries' and the EU's relations with Iran and building up mutual trust.
- Encouragement of direct contact and dialogue with Iran.
- Support Iran in playing an important and constructive role in international affairs.
- Promotion of dialogue and cooperation on non-proliferation, regional security and stabilization issues.
- Work with Iran and others in the region to encourage confidence-building measures and regional security.

- Establishment of appropriate consultation and cooperation mechanisms.
- Support for a conference on regional security issues.
- Reaffirmation that a solution to the Iranian nuclear issue would contribute to non-proliferation efforts and to realizing the objective of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery.
- Reaffirmation of the obligation under the United Nations Charter to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations.
- Cooperation on Afghanistan, including on intensified cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking, support for programmes on the return of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan; cooperation on reconstruction of Afghanistan; cooperation on guarding the Iran-Afghan border.

Economic

Steps towards the normalization of trade and economic relations, such as improving Iran's access to the international economy, markets and capital through practical support for full integration into international structures, including the World Trade Organization, and to create the framework for increased direct investment in Iran and trade with Iran.

Energy partnership

Steps towards the normalization of cooperation with Iran in the area of energy: establishment of a long-term and wide-ranging strategic energy partnership between Iran and the European Union and other willing partners, with concrete and practical applications/measures.

Agriculture

- Support for agricultural development in Iran.
- Facilitation of Iran's complete self-sufficiency in food through cooperation in modern technology.

Environment, infrastructure

- Civilian Projects in the field of environmental protection, infrastructure, science and technology, and high-tech:
  - Development of transport infrastructure, including international transport corridors;
  - Support for modernization of Iran's telecommunication infrastructure, including by possible removal of relevant export restrictions.

Civil aviation

- Civil aviation cooperation, including the possible removal of restrictions on manufacturers exporting aircraft to Iran:
  - Enabling Iran to renew its civil aviation fleet;

- Assisting Iran to ensure that Iranian aircraft meet international safety standards.

Economic, social and human development/humanitarian issues

- Provide, as necessary, assistance to Iran's economic and social development and humanitarian need.
- Cooperation/technical support in education in areas of benefit to Iran:
  - Supporting Iranians to take courses, placements or degrees in areas such as civil engineering, agriculture and environmental studies;
  - Supporting partnerships between Higher Education Institutions, e.g. public health, rural livelihoods, joint scientific projects, public administration, history and philosophy.
- Cooperation in the field of development of effective emergency response capabilities (e.g. seismology, earthquake research, disaster control etc.).
- Cooperation within the framework of a "dialogue among civilizations".

Implementation mechanism

- Constitution of joint monitoring groups for the implementation of a future agreement.

United Nations S/2008/394

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 June 2008

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements by its President on the situation in Liberia and West Africa,

Welcoming the sustained progress made by the Government of Liberia since January 2006 in rebuilding Liberia for the benefit of all Liberians, with the support of the international community,

Recalling its decision not to renew the measures in paragraph 10 of resolution 1521 (2003) regarding round log and timber products originating in Liberia, and stressing that Liberia's progress in the timber sector must continue with the effective implementation and enforcement of the National Forestry Reform Law signed into law on 5 October 2006, including the resolution of land and tenure rights, the conservation and protection of biodiversity, and the process for the awarding of contracts for commercial forestry operations,

Recalling its decision to terminate the measures in paragraph 6 of resolution 1521 (2003) regarding diamonds,

Welcoming the Government of Liberia's participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, noting Liberia's implementation of the necessary internal controls and other recommendations of the Kimberley Process, and calling on the Government of Liberia to continue to work diligently to ensure the effectiveness of these controls,

Stressing the continuing importance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in improving security through Liberia and helping the Government establish its authority throughout the country, particularly in the diamond and timber-producing regions, and border areas,

Urging all parties to support the Government of Liberia in identifying and implementing measures that will ensure progress towards meeting the conditions set out by paragraph 5 of resolution 1521 (2003),

Welcoming the report of the United Nations Panel of Experts on Liberia, including on the issues of diamonds, timber, targeted sanctions, and arms and security,

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Determining that, despite significant progress having been made in Liberia, the situation there continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Requests* that the Secretary-General renew the mandate of the Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 1760 (2007) for a further period until 20 December 2008, and requests that the Panel of Experts report to the Council through the Committee established by paragraph 21 of resolution 1521 (2003) ("the Committee") by 1 December 2008 on all issues listed in paragraph 5 of resolution 1792 (2007), and to provide informal updates to the Committee as appropriate before that date;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reappoint the Panel of Experts and to make the necessary financial and security arrangements to support the work of the Panel;

3. *Calls upon* all States and the Government of Liberia to cooperate fully with the Panel of Experts in all the aspects of its mandate;

4. *Encourages* the Government of Liberia to implement the recommendations of the most recent Kimberley Process review and work closely with the Kimberley Process to continue to strengthen Liberian controls on rough diamond trade;

5. *Encourages* the Kimberley Process to inform, as appropriate, the Security Council through its Committee about its assessment of progress made by the Liberian Government in implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of UNMIL's continuing assistance to the Government of Liberia, the Committee, and the Panel of Experts, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, and without prejudice to its mandate, including in monitoring the implementation of the measures in paragraphs 2 and 4 of resolution 1521 (2003), and in this regard recalls its request that UNMIL inspect inventories of weapons and ammunition obtained in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1683 (2006) to ensure all such weapons and ammunition are accounted for, and to make periodic reports to the Committee on its findings;

7. *Reiterates* its request to the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, and without prejudice to its mandate, to assist the Committee and the Panel of Experts by passing to the Committee and the Panel any information relevant to the implementation of the measures in paragraphs 2 and 4 of resolution 1521 (2003) in the context of enhanced coordination among United Nations missions and offices in West Africa;

8. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2008/395

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 June 2008

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1233 (1999), by which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed and to submit a report on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS). Subsequently, in paragraph 11 of its resolution 1580 (2004), the Council requested me to submit a written report to it every three months.

2. The present report covers developments in the country since my previous report (S/2008/181), dated 17 March 2008; in particular, it provides details, including on progress and constraints, regarding the political, security, socio-economic and human rights situations there.

II. Political developments

3. The period under review was marked by political and institutional tensions between the President, João Bernardo Vieira, and the National People's Assembly. The tensions stemmed from the controversy generated over the mandate of the National Assembly, which was expected to end on 21 April 2008. Article 79 of the national Constitution provides for a four-year mandate for the National Assembly, beginning on the date of the announcement of the results of the legislative elections, while the electoral law sets the dates for elections between 23 October and 25 November of the year when the legislature ends. If elections are held between 23 October and 25 November following the end of the mandate of the National Assembly on 21 April 2008, there would be an institutional vacuum of more than six months between the end of the mandate and the holding of the elections.

4. In an address before the National Assembly on 25 March 2008, President Vieira, stated, inter alia, that the mandate of the 2004-2008 legislature would end on 21 April 2008 in accordance with the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau. On the same day, a presidential decree was promulgated announcing that legislative elections would be held on 16 November 2008. In reaction, the National Assembly convened for an urgent debate on 27 March 2008, at the request of the Social Renewal Party,

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and adopted resolution 03/PL/2008 by 65 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions, to extend the mandate of the National Assembly until the announcement of the results of the forthcoming legislative elections.

5. During the debate, supporters of the resolution invoked an internal regulation of the National Assembly which stipulates that the mandate of parliamentarians commences with the first session after the elections and ends after the announcement of the results of the following elections. Those opposed to the resolution considered its adoption unconstitutional and sought the legal opinion of the Supreme Court of Justice. Its legality was further questioned by President Vieira and other national political actors who deemed it irregular, as it was passed without the mandatory two-thirds majority and was to come into immediate effect without the President's assent, thus usurping his constitutional powers of promulgation. Subsequently, on 14 April, a group of parliamentarians submitted a request to the Supreme Court for an advisory legal opinion on the constitutionality of the resolution.

6. In the wake of the adoption of the resolution, President Vieira held separate consultations with members of parliamentary political parties, including the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly, followed, on 15 April, by a meeting of the Council of State, aimed at seeking a consensual solution.

7. On 16 April, at an extraordinary session of the National Assembly, the members adopted exceptional transitional constitutional bill No. 1/2008 to extend the mandate of the National Assembly beyond 21 April 2008 until the announcement of the results of the next legislative elections, with the provision that it would immediately come into effect on the date of its promulgation. The bill was passed by 68 votes to 7, with 6 abstentions. Following a tense political standoff between the President and the National Assembly, the bill was subsequently promulgated by the President on 18 April. A political and institutional crisis was temporarily averted, but concerns continued to be expressed by opposition political parties and members of civil society, who believed that the President had signed the bill under pressure from the military. They decried continued interference in politics by the armed forces. On 28 April, parliamentarians submitted a request to the Supreme Court for an advisory opinion on the exceptional transitional constitutional bill. On 17 May, the Supreme Court confirmed that legal consultations on the matter were taking place with, among others, the Prosecutor General and the Speaker of the National Assembly.

8. Also on 18 April, the President signed the amnesty bill, exempting all those involved in political-military crimes before October 2004 from legal prosecution, while also restoring the political and civil rights of those who lost them as a consequence of past crises. In addition, the bill formalizes the creation of the National Reconciliation Commission, which, among its other functions, will provide monetary compensation to those who incurred injuries or material losses as a result of past political-military conflicts. Furthermore, the law takes into account the memorandum of understanding of 10 October 2004 and resolution 12/ANP/2004 of the National Assembly, as well as Security Council resolution 1580 (2004), by which the Council called on the authorities to take into consideration issues of justice and impunity.

9. Following the announcement of the date of legislative elections by President Vieira and the presentation by the Government of the electoral budget on 31 March

2008, the mobilization of financial resources became a major challenge. In addition to the operational electoral costs, the budget covers approximately $4 million in Government sovereignty costs, consisting of $1,513,035 in arrears owed from past elections, $1,815,185 for the salaries of electoral staff and $500,000 for voter registration in the diaspora. On 29 April 2008, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission signed a convention relating to the European Union's contribution of €600,000 towards the financing of the 2008 legislative elections. Those funds were the first contribution from donors to the basket trust fund managed by UNDP, which has itself contributed $600,000. The Government has also contributed the equivalent of $356,000 for the payment of the most urgent arrears resulting from past elections. Portugal has guaranteed in kind contributions to cover the costs of voter registration and voting. On 5 June, the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mohammed Ibn Chambas, informed my Representative that ECOWAS will contribute $500,000 for the elections. In April, I approved a financial package from the Peacebuilding Fund for four quick-impact projects, including a project on electoral support to cover voter registration and civic education in the amount of $1,381,889. The resources mobilized thus far total $3,297,889, leaving a budget gap of $5,266,209.

10. Following the decision of the Government to use biometric voter registration in the legislative election of 2008, UNDP presented a revised electoral budget of $15,605,668, significantly higher than the original budget of $8,564,098 for the elections. Subsequently, on 19 May 2008, UNDP convened a meeting of key Guinea-Bissau donors to discuss electoral support, in particular the option for biometric voter registration, which proved to be too expensive. On 20 May, my Representative, together with the UNDP Resident Representative and the European Community representative, met with the Prime Minister, Martinho N'Dafa Cabi, to advise him that, in view of the financial and time constraints, the option to use biometric registration was no longer feasible if the election date of 16 November 2008 announced by President Vieira was to be maintained. On 5 June, the Prime Minister explained at a press conference that the Government had reviewed its initial decision to use biometric technology for voter registration and would opt for the use of manual voter registration in the 2008 elections. He expressed the hope that preparations for biometric voter registration for the presidential elections in 2010 could start as early as January 2009. In June 2008, UNDP will deploy in the country a team of electoral advisers on electoral management, civic education and logistics, in order to support national electoral structures.

11. From March to May 2008, the participatory dialogue programme led by the National Institute for Studies and Research and Interpeace — Voz di Paz/Voice of Peace — proceeded with its research on the root causes of socio-political instability in the country through grass-roots consultations in 18 constituencies. The programme continued its collaborative efforts with community-based economic associations, non-governmental organizations and community radio stations with a view to strengthening platforms for dialogue in all regions of the country. Recurrent themes during local discussions were the increasing insecurity and violence resulting from the arbitrariness or non-existence of local State structures; bad governance, which has eroded trust in State institutions; the ill-functioning justice system and the application of traditional forms of justice, which is often not in accordance with international norms; increased poverty among large sectors of the

population due to the mismanagement of natural resources; and the intensification of local conflicts as a result of unemployment and widespread poverty.

12. During the period under review, UNOGBIS produced 13 radio programmes focused on reconciliation, gender issues, elections and the combating of drug trafficking. In June 2008, a series of radio programmes was broadcast focusing on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the participation of women in the electoral process.

13. From 16 to 18 May 2008, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Haile Menkerios visited Guinea-Bissau as part of a working mission to West Africa. He met with the President, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the President of the National Electoral Commission, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and representatives of the United Nations system. Discussions and consultations focused on ongoing efforts by the Government and its partners to consolidate peace and stability, including preparations for the forthcoming legislative elections, the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission in Guinea-Bissau, the reform of the security and defence sector and the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. The Assistant Secretary-General acknowledged the challenges confronting the Government and its partners, particularly the need to strengthen the capacity of State democratic institutions; the urgency of addressing food insecurity and other socio-economic needs of the population; and the creation of an enabling atmosphere and proper conditions for the holding of credible and transparent legislative elections in November 2008. He pledged to support the advocacy efforts of the United Nations and partners in Guinea-Bissau with a view to helping the country sustain ongoing stabilization efforts, stressing that the holistic approach inherent in the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission will also provide an extra platform for resource mobilization for the country.

III. Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

14. Throughout April and May 2008, UNOGBIS, in collaboration with the Peacebuilding Support Office, continued to provide support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations and Chairperson of the country-specific configuration on Guinea-Bissau, Maria Viotti, headed a delegation of the Peacebuilding Commission which visited Guinea-Bissau from 6 to 11 April. The main purpose of the visit was to hold consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including the Government and national and international partners, as well as with civil society and the private sector, on the strategic framework for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau. The delegation also visited ongoing peacebuilding projects throughout the country.

15. On 7 May, the country-specific configuration on Guinea-Bissau of the Peacebuilding Commission initiated a round of thematic discussions on key peacebuilding priorities, including elections; public administration reform and measures to reactivate the economy; the combating of drug trafficking; the strengthening of the justice sector; socio-economic challenges, including youth employment and energy; and security sector reform and the rule of law. Representatives of the Government, civil society, including women's groups and the private sector, the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau and other partners, are

participating in these discussions by video link. It is envisaged that these thematic discussions will inform the drafting, by the Government of Guinea-Bissau in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, of the country's strategic framework for peacebuilding, which is expected to be finalized and adopted towards the end of July 2008.

16. Early in April 2008, the Guinea-Bissau interim priority plan was approved. In addition, I approved an allocation of $6 million from the Peacebuilding Fund for the implementation of four short-term project proposals in the areas of the security sector, youth employment and the forthcoming legislative elections. The recently established national steering committee met late in April to approve its terms of reference and rules of procedure and again on 29 May to approve four project proposals prepared and submitted by the Government through United Nations agencies and their national counterparts. Upon the completion of the strategic framework plan in July 2008, and in line with identified priorities, I will announce the second envelope of assistance to Guinea-Bissau from the Peacebuilding Fund.

IV. Security aspects

17. On 13 April 2008, the headquarters of the judicial police in Bissau was attacked and vandalized by approximately 20 agents of the public order police. In the course of the attack, 21 prison inmates were set free and 1 judicial police officer, in custody for the killing of a public order police officer, was led away and killed, and his body put on public display. On 14 April, during a press conference on the matter, the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Justice and of the Interior condemned the incident and announced the creation of a commission of inquiry to fully investigate the circumstances and to hold those responsible accountable. The headquarters of the judicial police was sealed and placed under the protection of the military police.

18. My Representative met subsequently, on various occasions, with the authorities, including the Prime Minister, the Ministers of Justice and of the Interior, the Prosecutor General and the Director General of the judicial police to ensure that the incident did not trigger further crises and to promote a quick resolution of the situation, in part to prevent compromising the anti-narcotics operations of the judicial police. The Prosecutor General has initiated the work of the commission of inquiry, although he has deplored the lack of cooperation from some districts.

19. On 5 May, the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau met in Praia. The Group condemned the recent clashes between the security forces in the country and called on the Government to put in place strong law enforcement mechanisms to fight impunity, and to consider available international instruments in this regard. The Group also agreed to establish a local contact group comprising its representatives in Bissau, under the co-presidency of Portugal and ECOWAS. The local group will ensure continuity of the Group's activities and its periodic working sessions by maintaining a permanent dialogue with the Government and other local actors.

20. During the reporting period, projects were formulated, together with technical assistance inputs, to implement the commitments made by the international community at the International Conference on Drug Trafficking in Guinea-Bissau, held in Lisbon in December 2007. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

the European Commission and the Government of Guinea-Bissau have finalized a contract to allow the disbursement of the €2 million contributed in Lisbon by the Commission. The national managing structures for the oversight and implementation of the Government's anti-narcotics operational plan were inaugurated by the Government on 8 May 2008. The structures provide for two operational steering bodies responsible for the running of the law enforcement and criminal justice projects, and a consultative board comprising relevant national ministries and international partners.

21. A Special Adviser on anti-narcotics and organized crime of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime assumed his duties in Bissau in May, completing the initial set-up of a dedicated presence of the Office in Guinea-Bissau. The presence of the Office in Bissau is crucial for speeding up delivery of technical assistance inputs to the judicial police and the quick implementation of projects by the Office and the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with the Government's anti-narcotics operational plan.

22. On 22 May 2008, my Representative convened a meeting of international partners to review resource mobilization efforts following the Lisbon Conference. The discussions centred on the establishment of mechanisms by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the pooling and disbursement of donor assistance for the implementation of the Government's anti-narcotics operational plan, as well as linkages to the planned ECOWAS regional conference on drug trafficking in West Africa. On 23 May, the first meeting of the national committee for the implementation of the anti-narcotics operational plan was held in the Ministry of Justice to review current efforts in combating drug trafficking and organized crime.

23. On 21 April 2008, the Office of the Prosecutor General summoned the Prime Minister for a hearing related to his recent public claim that he was aware of the involvement of several people in drug trafficking activities in the country. On 14 May, the Deputy Prosecutor General interviewed the Prime Minister, who is also the Chairman of the committee to combat drug trafficking.

V. Military aspects

24. In mid-April 2008, the Government released the results of the UNDP-financed census of the armed forces, which was carried out between 2 and 20 March 2008. At the end of the exercise, identity cards were issued to all 4,458 active personnel in the armed forces, of whom 95.8 per cent are men and 4.2 per cent are women. The security sector reform programme envisages a reduction of the size of the armed forces to 3,440 personnel. Senior and middle-level officers total 2,473 (55.4 per cent), while personnel in lower-level categories, including corporals and soldiers, total 1,985 (44.6 per cent). This inverted-pyramid structure of the armed forces exerts enormous pressure on the Government's military staff payroll and emphasizes the urgent need to conduct a census of all other defence and security forces with a view to adequately planning for demobilization and reintegration of both defence and security forces.

25. The census of the armed forces was considered a prerequisite for the effective engagement of the donor community in support of the national strategy for the reform of the defence and security sector. In the meantime, the security sector reform technical coordination committee has initiated preparations, with financial

assistance from the European Union, for the census, scheduled to take place in June 2008, of veterans of the liberation war.

26. Between January and April 2008, a total area of 2,719,502 m^2 was cleared of 45 anti-personnel, 152 anti-tank and 6 anti-boat mines, as well as 348 items of unexploded ordnance and 78 detonators, by the non-governmental organizations Humanitarian Aid (HUMAID) and Lutamos Todos Contra as Minas. From 30 March to 4 April, UNOGBIS organized training sessions in the use of force and firearms, the code of conduct and ethics, human rights principles in law enforcement and the rights of women and children. The participants included 59 police agents, among them 5 women, from the public order police, migration and State security branches. The training sessions were held in Bolama and Buma, in the south of the country. From 26 to 30 May, an additional 25 police officers from the judicial police were trained in the use of force and firearms. In June, approximately 50 police agents from the customs and border police received training on the issues of clandestine migration and drug trafficking.

27. On 14 April 2008, a joint European Union civilian and military team of security and defence experts arrived in Guinea-Bissau to prepare the logistical and technical conditions for the deployment of 15 European Union civilian and military personnel in the country. The deployed personnel will provide technical assistance in the area of security sector reform to the security and defence services of Guinea-Bissau, including for the revision and drafting of relevant legislation and the strengthening of existing judicial mechanisms. This assistance is being given under the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy, with a budget of €5.6 million over a period of 12 months. The European Commission has earmarked an additional €27 million for conflict prevention under the tenth European Development Fund, which puts the European Commission in the lead in terms of financial and technical support for the security sector reform programme in Guinea-Bissau.

28. The UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery assisted the United Nations country team in Guinea-Bissau in preparing a justice and security sector reform project for the Government, with financial assistance valued at $7,980,488. The project is aimed at increasing access to justice for vulnerable groups, particularly women; strengthening national capacities; and preventing, as well as mitigating, the impact of violent conflict through the strengthening of the justice sector in Guinea-Bissau. Thus far, $2,187,900 has been secured as a result of combined contributions from Germany and UNDP, with $5,792,588 still to be mobilized.

29. From 14 to 16 April 2008, a delegation from the ECOWAS Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff, comprising the Chiefs of Defence Staff of Nigeria and Burkina Faso, undertook a fact-finding mission to Guinea-Bissau. The main objective of the mission was to ascertain the state of military barracks and the living conditions of military personnel, and to meet with national authorities to discuss the political and socio-economic situation in the country and the status of the ongoing defence and security sector reform effort. At the end of the visit, the delegation called on ECOWAS and the United Nations to scale up their mobilization of donor support for the implementation of the development programmes and projects in Guinea-Bissau to benefit civilian and military segments of the population. They also called on the international community to work together with the authorities of

Guinea-Bissau in the implementation of the security sector reform programme, particularly the smooth reintegration into civilian life of ex-combatants.

30. Government and international partners acknowledge that meeting the challenge of mobilizing resources for the successful implementation of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau will require the enhanced coordination of donor assistance so as to avoid duplication and facilitate the creation of synergies and complementarities among partners. As part of the efforts to help address that challenge, a resource-mapping exercise on current and planned donor support for security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau was organized in New York on 22 and 23 May 2008 by the Department of Political Affairs and UNOGBIS, with the support of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Support Office. Participants included United Nations agencies and departments in New York as well as representatives of Governments, the World Bank, the European Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the African Union and ECOWAS. Participants from the regional offices in Dakar of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office for Project Services and representatives of Guinea-Bissau took part in the meeting by video link. Discussions highlighted the need to further support the Government financially, materially and technically and to fill gaps in the areas of law enforcement and criminal justice. An assessment mission to Guinea-Bissau is expected to be undertaken later in 2008 in order to identify priority areas for additional donor contributions to the security sector reform programme.

VI. Economic and social aspects

31. During the period under review the country registered an improvement in some of its economic indicators. Economic activities have increased, owing to higher agricultural production and greater activity in the construction sector. The economic prospects for 2008 indicate a 3 per cent growth rate in gross domestic product and a 7 per cent inflation rate, down from 9.3 per cent in 2007. To date, 25,000 tons of cashew nuts have been exported, with the total volume of exports of cashew nuts for this year expected to be 106,000 tons, compared with 96,100 in 2007 and 93,300 in 2006. The Government's financial needs for 2008 are expected to be as much as $115.8 million. Although there has been a relative increase in revenue, public expenditure is higher than predicted. After the deduction of all revenues and financial contributions from donors, the budgetary gap is estimated to be $12 million. The combined budgetary support granted by donors thus far is approximately $60.7 million.

32. The overall fiscal situation of Guinea-Bissau remains fragile owing to the rising prices of fuel and food. The Government has introduced a number of preventive measures, such as tax exemptions on imported rice — a staple food item for most inhabitants — and fuel, in order to mitigate the negative impact of price increases on ordinary people, but this will mean a drop in projected State revenue from taxes.

33. Between 8 and 22 May 2008, a mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) undertook an assessment visit to Guinea-Bissau to review the Government's performance under the Fund's emergency post-conflict assistance programme and to discuss a second allotment of $2.8 million under the programme. The IMF mission

reached an agreement with the Government to consolidate recent gains made on fiscal stability throughout 2008 and to avoid the accumulation of new arrears through stricter budgetary controls and stepped-up efforts to increase revenue collection, as well as good economic governance. The Executive Board of IMF is expected to discuss the request for the disbursement of the second allotment by August 2008. The visiting IMF mission was confident that the current efforts of the Government will pave the way for a poverty reduction growth facility arrangement when Guinea-Bissau reaches the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries programme and for debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. IMF asserted that that series of economic governance initiatives would act as a catalyst for additional donor support for critical structural macroeconomic reforms. The Fund also proposed a follow-up to the November 2006 round-table meeting in Geneva to galvanize key donor partners of Guinea-Bissau with a view to their providing further support.

34. The World Food Programme continues to monitor food prices and has observed an increase of approximately 20 per cent in the price of rice in the past five months. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), rice imports are expected to reach 84,521 tons, while national production is estimated to reach 53,208 tons. So far, there is no evidence that the increase in food prices has had an impact on the nutritional status of children or the population in general, but the situation could easily deteriorate given that 14 per cent of rural households in the country are either moderately or severely food insecure. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with the nutrition department of the Ministry of Health and the non-governmental organization Caritas, has planned visits to the 24 nutritional centres in the country to collect data on the nutritional status of children.

35. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, supported by FAO, has launched a national agricultural diversification campaign to distribute seeds to rural farmers, including 65 tons of rice, 40 tons of peanuts and 9 tons of cowpeas. The national campaign is targeted particularly at producers affected by the low cashew crop yields in past years.

36. The United Nations joint team on AIDS is assisting the Government of Guinea-Bissau in creating the conditions necessary for receipt of the $44 million grant approved in November 2007 by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in support of the country's fight against AIDS. In order to strengthen overall coordination, the United Nations country team provided technical support for the national system to monitor and evaluate the AIDS response, as well as for the procurement and supply management of AIDS-related commodities. The number of people undergoing antiretroviral treatment has increased from 860 adults and 39 children at the end of 2007 to 1,077 adults and 46 children in 2008.

37. On 29 April 2008, the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank approved an International Development Association grant of $10 million to support an emergency public service delivery project in Guinea-Bissau. The grant will finance mainly the salaries of primary-schoolteachers, ensuring continued delivery of essential basic education services in 2008. It will also pave the way for broader-based support after 2008 through the multi-donor Education For All programme. Bearing in mind that salary arrears in the education sector caused several teacher

strikes last year, the World Bank remains engaged in contributing to the uninterrupted delivery of critical public services.

VII. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)

38. From 14 to 16 April 2008, UNOGBIS facilitated the organization of a workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, which was attended by 30 participants from UNOGBIS, the United Nations country team, the European Commission, ECOWAS and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding. The workshop provided an important forum to discuss strategies on how to enhance women's participation in peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau. In this context, specific action points were delineated to introduce gender-specific elements into the strategic framework plan currently being prepared by the Peacebuilding Commission, the electoral process and the restructuring of the security and defence sector, as well as the process of national reconciliation. Furthermore, it was recommended that gender perspectives be integrated into all aspects of the work of the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau. This also included proposals to set up a gender thematic working group in order to ensure coordination among United Nations and national stakeholders, including civil society, on the integration of a gender perspective in socio-political development programming in Guinea-Bissau.

39. During the reporting period UNOGBIS continued to work with the Institute for Women and Children, the main civil society network for women in Guinea-Bissau, which includes organizations of women parliamentarians and ministers, as well as institutions focusing on issues relating to gender-based violence and the integration of women in socio-economic development. A committee — established on 29 April 2008 — has agreed on a course of action to collect baseline information and conduct local consultations with women leaders, as well as Government and traditional community leaders. This process will culminate in the organization, in June 2008, of a national workshop with the objective of analysing the situation of men and women in the country and developing specific recommendations for the strategic framework plan for Guinea-Bissau of the Peacebuilding Commission.

VIII. Human rights aspects

40. On 29 April 2008, the Chairman of the Guinea-Bissau Human Rights League, Luis Vaz Martins, presented to my Representative the annual report of the League, which described with concern what the League saw as an increased trend towards the intimidation of journalists, magistrates and human rights activists, as well as the rising influence of the armed forces in political and State affairs. The report denounced the alleged increase in ethnocentrism and tribalism in the country and appealed for ethnic and religious balance in the composition of the armed forces.

41. On 3 May 2008, the Guinea-Bissau Journalists Observatory was launched with the aim of monitoring the situation of the media in the country. On 20 May, Alberto Dabó, a Reuters correspondent in Guinea-Bissau, appeared in court to face charges of libel arising from his participation as an interpreter in a British television news programme in June 2007, in which the navy of Guinea-Bissau was referred to as

being involved in drug trafficking activities. UNOGBIS will continue to monitor the progress of the case.

42. Child trafficking remains an issue of major concern. As many as 200 children, some as young as five years of age, are reportedly smuggled across the border to Senegal every month. Border police, key child-protection organizations and community leaders are being trained, with support from UNICEF, on specific tools to prevent such trafficking. UNICEF will also provide police focal points for child protection with equipment to facilitate surveillance along the borders. Relations between international and local child rights defenders and the Islamic Council of Guinea-Bissau are tense. The latter disagrees with the use of the term "trafficking", arguing that the travel of *talibé* children to Senegal occurs on religious grounds.

43. UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund have agreed on joint programmes to accelerate efforts to end female genital mutilation in Guinea-Bissau, a practice which reportedly affects two out of five women aged between 15 and 49. With the support of United Nations agencies and civil society organizations, the special commission for women and children of the National Assembly has submitted a draft bill to ban the practice, although the President of the parliamentary commission for women and children's issues recently decided to remove the item from the agenda of the National Assembly on the grounds that it would exacerbate ethnic and religious tensions.

IX. Staff security

44. The security situation during the reporting period was affected by the political instability and the presence of armed groups involved in robbing entire villages. Paradoxically, the crime rate remains low. United Nations and other international staff have mainly been victims of petty theft and non-violent attempts to break into their houses. One robbery and one break-in attempt were reported during the period. United Nations staff can circulate freely throughout the country.

X. Observations and recommendations

45. The recent disclosure by the authorities in Guinea-Bissau of knowledge of those individuals involved in drug trafficking and organized crime underscores the urgent need for the international community to take strong action in support of the Government in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. I urge the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to take advantage of international instruments to tackle this phenomenon, which has regional and international implications.

46. I am encouraged by reports of improved prospects for economic recovery and by the determination of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to take strong measures aimed at improving fiscal discipline and economic stability in the country. However, the economic and financial situation remains dire, calling for substantial support by the international community if Guinea-Bissau is to emerge from its present predicament, particularly the continuing budget deficits and the absence of State investment in public services and infrastructure.

47. It is especially worrying that, as Guinea-Bissau prepares for legislative elections in November 2008 and at a time when the overall situation in the country

remains volatile, the necessary financial resources for the smooth conduct of those crucial polls have not been found. The recent clashes between the security forces and the perception of impunity undermine the gains made in advancing the rule of law and the democratic process. The Government's inability to pay salary arrears for the past few months could heighten tensions. In this connection, I renew my appeal to the international community to provide budgetary assistance to Guinea-Bissau and, in particular, to provide financial and material support for the forthcoming legislative elections. I applaud the efforts of international financial institutions to remain engaged with the country and, in particular, to continue to provide vital assistance.

48. I am encouraged by the surge in activities in the sphere of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau and note with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the UNDP-financed census of the armed forces and the collaboration of the authorities of Guinea-Bissau in that exercise. With the successful completion of the census, a major obstacle to donor support for security sector reform has been overcome. I welcome the start of the European Security and Defence Policy mission in Guinea-Bissau, and the financial and technical support for the security sector reform programme in the country provided by the European Union.

49. I commend the Government for its consistent and constructive collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission and call on the Government to continue to ensure sustained engagement at both the technical and the political levels. The success of the peacebuilding process is vital for the future of Guinea-Bissau, and I recommend the strengthening of the resources and capacity of UNOGBIS and the United Nations country team to enable them to support the process fully and effectively, especially given the additional workload that comes with the peacebuilding engagement.

50. I should like to conclude by commending once again the staff of UNOGBIS, under the leadership of my Representative, Shola Omoregie, as well as the personnel of the entire United Nations country team, for the important work they continue to carry out in Guinea-Bissau, often under challenging circumstances.

United Nations S/2008/396

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 June 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 17 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to you on behalf of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement with regard to the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in particular with regard to ongoing and intensifying illegal Israeli settlement activities.

In grave violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, in violation of numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and in defiance of the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and the will of the international community, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to carry out its illegal colonial settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around occupied East Jerusalem. Moreover, despite commitments made in the context of the Middle East peace process and agreements reached therein and contrary to the spirit and goals of this renewed peace process, Israel has actually escalated the conduct of such illegal activities in the recent period.

In the past several months, Israel has issued tenders for thousands of new units in Israeli settlements throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory and continues to construct and expand its illegal settlements, to build bypass roads to serve those settlements and to maintain settlement "outposts". At the same time, the occupying Power continues to illegally construct the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, which is intricately correlated with its colonial settlement activities, serving, inter alia, to further entrench the settlements and to facilitate their expansion and the attempts to annex de facto more Palestinian land.

In this connection, Israel continues to carry out countless other unlawful policies and measures intended to advance its illegal settlement campaign and to alter the demographic composition, character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the confiscation of Palestinian land, the destruction of property, including the demolition of Palestinian homes and the razing of agricultural lands, and the imposition of severe and discriminatory residency restrictions and a permit regime.

Such actions not only constitute flagrant violations and grave breaches of international law, but also heighten tensions, further destabilize the fragile situation on the ground and very negatively impact the peace process involving the two sides.

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Indeed, these illegal Israeli policies and activities are destroying the territorial contiguity, integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, seriously undermining the prospects for the establishment of a physically viable and contiguous Palestinian State and thus threatening the prospects for achievement of a just and lasting peace settlement with the realization of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

The members of the Non-Aligned Movement reiterate their condemnation of all of Israel's ongoing illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and stress the dangers of such continuing illegal and unilateral Israeli measures. In this regard, the members of the Non-Aligned Movement urge the Security Council, considering its authority under the Charter of the United Nations and responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, to seriously address this critical issue.

The Security Council has, in the past, taken clear and strong positions deploring Israeli settlement activities and calling for the cessation of settlement construction and the dismantlement of settlements already built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In light of the serious situation on the ground and the critical status of the peace process, it is incumbent on the Council to once again clearly and seriously address this issue by demanding respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, and respect for all relevant Council resolutions, and reiterating its demands that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately and completely cease all settlement construction, expansion and planning in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo Malmierca **Díaz**
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau
of the Non-Aligned Movement

United Nations S/2008/397

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 June 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 17 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and pursuant to my letter dated 13 May 2008, I have the honour to submit herewith the proposed package for constructive negotiations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with the letter dated 13 May 2008 from Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex). This package was also presented to the officials of the countries of the 5+1 Group through Javier Solana, European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, on 13 May 2008.

I would appreciate it if you could kindly bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulate it as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As I informed you in my previous communications, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a responsible Member State of the United Nations Organization, and based on its international rights and obligations, has always emphasized the importance of multilateralism. Unfortunately, a few countries, with political motivations and objectives, have raised some ambiguities over Iran's exclusively peaceful nuclear programme and have used the United Nations organs as a tool, thus undermining the integrity and credibility of the United Nations.

Whereas the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has, time and again, confirmed the non-diversion of Iran's nuclear programme, and based on the agreed Work Plan between Iran and the Agency the remaining issues are completely resolved, and while the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all nuclear activities of our country are currently under the full-scope safeguards of the IAEA, the United Nations Security Council has persisted in its illegal measures.

I have already brought to Your Excellency's attention, in detail, my Government's arguments and reasoning regarding the unlawfulness of the intervention of the United Nations Security Council in Iran's peaceful nuclear programme. Indeed, the Islamic Republic of Iran still maintains that constructive interaction and reasonable and just negotiations, without preconditions and based on mutual respect, is the basic solution for the promotion and improvement of international situations and circumstances. On the same basis, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to negotiate with the 5+1 Group within a specific framework on issues of mutual interest. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that resorting to two-track approaches that comprise intimidation and negotiation not only will not help in resolving issues but will indeed further complicate the situation.

The Iranian nation is a peace-loving nation that has spared no efforts to contribute to the regional and international peace and stability. Iran's capabilities and power can contribute to the regional and international peace and stability. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that sustainable regional and international peace and stability, economic relations, free trade, energy security, combating terrorism and narcotic drugs, as well as peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provide appropriate common grounds for long-term and sustainable cooperation.

Given the present circumstances at the regional and international levels, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the introduction of a new and comprehensive initiative, aimed at achieving sustainable and constructive interaction, as an imperative. On its part, the Islamic Republic of Iran, following thorough and proficient studies and considerations, has carefully prepared a package containing important initiatives and proposals in different political, security, economic and nuclear fields, to be submitted to the countries of the 5+1 Group. This package has been prepared as a basis for comprehensive and thorough negotiations with the said countries based on collective commitments as well as justice, sovereignty and mutual respect. We are of the firm belief that the present package will provide an exceptional opportunity for real and serious cooperation among the concerned parties.

I would like to emphasize on this important point that the principled approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards this package is that of a strategic one. Therefore, I hope that the concerned parties would acknowledge the importance of the proposed package and its substance as a comprehensive solution to the regional and global problems and challenges. The package can be a basis for long-term cooperation. I hope the concerned parties would welcome it and would deal with it constructively.

(*Signed*) Manouchehr **Mottaki**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Enclosure

The Islamic Republic of Iran's proposed package for constructive negotiations

Stressing on the respect for the principles of justice, abidance by law, recognition of the rights of nations, respect for the sovereignty of states, reinforcement of regional and international peace, abstaining from monopolistic actions and threats, respect for democracy, human values and cultures of different nations; and rejecting the injustice and lawless behaviors towards the rights of nations;

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that there is an extensive range of issues such as security issues, regional and international developments, nuclear energy, terrorism, democracy, etc. that provide a substantive potential for cooperation.

To the above are added other fields that include drug control, environmental conservation, and economic, technological, commercial — especially energy — cooperation, that provide other excellent possibilities and avenues for constructive cooperation.

Therefore, in view of the developments that have unfolded internationally and across the region, there is a need for a new and a more advanced plan for interaction. In this new round of negotiations, the main objective of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to reach a comprehensive agreement, one that is based on collective goodwill- that will help to establish long-term cooperation between the parties, and will contribute to the sustainability and strength of regional and international security and a just peace.

We also believe that in its later stages, the negotiations have the capacity to invite other capable and interested states to join it and explore the possibility of cooperation within parameters of the package. The main outcome of this new round of negotiations would be an agreement on "collective commitments" to cooperate on economic, political, regional, international, nuclear and energy security issues.

Therefore, we are willing to start wide-ranging and comprehensive negotiations on the following issues:

A- Political and Security Issues:
1- One of the most important concerns of humanity is the need to protect the rights and dignity of human being and respect for the culture of other nations. A dialogue, for the appropriate realization of this, is necessary.

2- Talks on bolstering a just peace and advancement of democracy in the region and around the world. The talks will be based on:
- Respect for the rights of nations and their national interests.
- Support for the national sovereignty of states- based on democratic methods.
- Prevention of violence and militarism.
- Prevention of terrorism and its contributing factors.

On the above basis, the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to enter into talks on cooperation to strengthen a just peace and bolster the stability and the advancement of democracy in regions that suffer from instability, militarism, violence and terrorism. Such cooperation can take place in different parts of the world- more specifically in the Middle East, the Balkans, Africa, and Latin America. Cooperation to assist the Palestinian people to find a comprehensive plan- one that is sustainable, democratic and fair- to resolve the 60-year old Palestinian issue can become a symbol of such collaboration.

3- Fighting common security threats, and talks and collective collaborations on combating the factors which contribute to and create security threats, including:
- Terrorism
- Drugs
- Illegal immigration
- Organized crimes

B- Economic Issues:

1- Cooperation on the provision of energy and its security- in the fields of production, provision, transportation and consumption.
2- Cooperation on trade and investment.
3- A common effort to help fight poverty in least developed countries and to reduce the divide between social classes.
4- Reducing the impact of sharp price fluctuations and retooling global monetary and financial arrangements to benefit the nations of the world.

C- The Nuclear Issue:

With regard to the nuclear issue, Iran is ready- in a comprehensive manner, and as an active and influential member of the NPT and the IAEA- to consider the following issues:
1- Obtaining a further assurance about the non-diversion of the nuclear activities of different countries.
2- Establishing enrichment and nuclear fuel production consortiums in different parts of the world- including in Iran.
3- Cooperation to access and utilize peaceful nuclear technology and facilitating its usage by all states.
4- Nuclear disarmament and establishment of a follow up committee.
5- Improved supervision by the IAEA over the nuclear activities of different states.
6- Joint collaboration over nuclear safety and physical protection.
7- An effort to encourage other states to control the export of nuclear material and equipment.

D- Within the parameters of this package, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to start serious and targeted negotiations to produce a tangible result. The negotiations can be evaluated after a specific period of time (a maximum of 6 months) to decide about its continuation.

United Nations S/2008/398

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 June 2008
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of my Government, I am writing to inform the United Nations Security Council that the Sudan has just taken a further step in its malicious campaign to destabilize Chad. Moving ahead with its planned aggression, the Sudan this morning launched a ground and air attack on the localities of Addé and Bakout, situated near the border between the two countries. Sudanese soldiers and the sinister Janjaweed, supported by two helicopters, tried to occupy positions held by the Chadian army but were driven back.

By openly sending its army and air assets into Chadian territory, Khartoum has thrown off the mask disguising its aggression against our country. The line thus crossed by the Sudanese authorities has the advantage of clarifying the situation for anyone still harbouring doubts about Khartoum's responsibility for the successive attacks against Chad, including the clashes that began on 11 June 2008.

Having suffered since 2005 from the Sudanese aggression, which has gone unpunished, Chad is yet again submitting a complaint to the Security Council. It asks the Council to forcefully condemn the belligerent and unacceptable conduct of the Sudanese Government — which is fanning instability and insecurity in Chad and elsewhere in the subregion, thereby posing a threat to peace and security as defined in the Charter of the United Nations — and to urge the Sudanese Government to stop its aggression against Chad.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mahamat Ali **Adoum**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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